

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An apparatus for reproducing information stored in an optical recording medium which comprises marks or pits which are arranged at a pitch less than  $\lambda/2NA$ , wherein  $\lambda$  is a wavelength of light used for reproduction and NA is an numerical aperture of an objective lens, said apparatus comprising:

a shielding band which is located in an optical path of an optical system for detecting light coming from the optical recording medium in such a position to shield at least a middle of a bundle of rays.

2. An apparatus for reproducing information stored in an optical recording medium which comprises marks or pits which are arranged at a pitch less than  $\lambda/2NA$ , wherein  $\lambda$  is a wavelength of light used for reproduction and NA is an numerical aperture of an objective lens, said apparatus comprising:

a first detecting system for generally detecting optical signals from marks or pits which are arranged at a pitch not less than  $\lambda/2NA$ ;

a second detecting system for generally detecting optical signals from marks or pits which are arranged at a pitch less than  $\lambda/2NA$ ; and

a signal processing circuit for reproducing information by combining the signals detected by the first detecting system with the signals detected by the second detecting system.

3. An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the second detecting system comprises a shielding band for shielding at least a middle of a

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bundle of rays.

4. A method for reproducing information stored in an optical recording medium which comprises marks or pits which are arranged at a pitch less than  $\lambda/2NA$ , wherein  $\lambda$  is a wavelength of light used for reproduction and NA is an numerical aperture of an objective lens, said method comprising the steps of:

detecting first optical signals from marks or pits which are arranged at a pitch not less than  $\lambda /2NA$ ;

detecting second optical signals from marks or pits which are arranged at a pitch less than  $\lambda/2NA$  while shielding at least a middle of each bundle of rays coming from each of the marks or pits so as to detect the rays located in a periphery of each bundle with respect to a track direction; and

reproducing information from the first signals and the second signals.